

D75 DEATH OF MRS J.G. CLAUSING, WIFE
1929 OF USA MARINE OFFICER AS RESULT
OF FIRE?

12 3 27 A KRISSEL, LIEUT J. CLAUSING, COL LYMAN,
DR W.K. NANCE, CAPT J.E. SNOW, LT.
LELAND, R.C. BARDY, SGT REY. D.
TOKMACHEFF, LT W.J. STAMPER, CAPT
J.P. EVANS, DR VELLIOT,

D75

D-75



Memorandum.

**POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.**

Shanghai, 22nd March 1927.

To .. A. C. (R.)

— 11 —

no other information
available, other than that
given at the inquest.

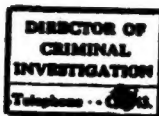
H. C. C. C.

C. - Sept.

Let all newspapers
report, or the best at
any rate should be
attached

72/3

by



C.I.D. HEADQUARTERS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

19.....

M.A.C. (or)

Has Conduct
any information
in re ?

12/3.

Lca

Sup. 17.

For re per

Trans. R

12/3. 76

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

C.I.D. HEADQUARTERS.

POLITICAL BRANCH.

Shanghai, 11: 3: 1929

To

A/D. G. I.

Translation
herein.

[Signature]

C.P.

Pro. report.

11/3.

Ca

Ref. by memo.

MAR 1 1 1929

[Signature]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. I. D. REGISTRY
No. I. O. D. 75.....
Date...../ 2. 2. 29

French Municipal Police.

No. 205/A

CONFIDENTIAL

Shanghai.

March 5, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith a copy of a report submitted by my Detective Service in connection with the fire in the No. 2 Lane 148 Route des Sœurs and in the course of which Mrs. Glawing, wife of an American officer, met her death.

(Sgd.) Pieri.

To Captain Barrett,
Commissioner of Police,

S. M. P.

**Criminal Investigation Department,
Second Division.**

**Shanghai,
February 26, 1929.**

**Inspector Bardy to the Chief of the Criminal Investigation
Department.**

I have the honour to report that at about 2 a.m. February 25/4 a fire broke out in the No. 2 Lane 146/A Route des Soeurs. The Fire Brigade was informed at 2.24 a.m. and quickly proceeded to the place where they found flames emerging from several windows of rooms on the second story of the house, west corner. After making the customary dispositions, the firemen made use of a ladder and gained access to the place on fire, it having been reported that a child was there. Mr. Boyere placed a handkerchief in his mouth and without hesitation entered the place. He succeeded in approaching a bed which was in flames and by groping he ascertained that a body was lying on it. He carefully took it into his arms and carried it through the flames to an adjoining verandah. Following upon an inquiry, it was established that the person who had been taken from the burning room was Mrs. Clamsing, wife of an American officer of the Army of Occupation of Shanghai and who was living at the address given above.

After 2 hours of work, the firemen, under the direction of their chief Mr. Chapeaux, overcame the flames. The damage done is rather serious and is not covered by insurance. The premises were used as a boardinghouse by Mr. Poliak. The causes of the fire have not been entirely ascertained and appeared to have been accidental. The inquiry has not revealed anything definite.

The body of Mrs. Clamsing was removed to the Mortuary of the Municipal Hospital where Dr. Velliet made medical-legal examination. He has issued a certificate for burial which he has personally handed to Lieutenant Evans Fordyce Carleon who attended the examination with the Police. In the evening the body was removed to the Pearson Road Mortuary, International Settlement.

The causes of the fire could not be definitely ascertained during the preliminary investigation. The French Police, who have no complaint whatever, were not in a position to interrogate the person responsible for the accident. As he is an American officer an inquiry has been opened by a Judge of the American Court.

Sgd:- BARDY.



GARDE MUNICIPALE

N° 205/A.

CONFIDENTIELLE

Changhai, le 5 Mars 1929

Le Chef de la Garde
à Monsieur le Capitaine BARNETT
Commissioner of Police
Shanghai Municipal Police

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, la copie d'un rapport établi par mon Service de Sûreté, à la suite de l'incendie survenu au N° 2 Passage 146 Route des Soeurs, et dans lequel a péri Mme CLAUSING, femme d'un Officier Américain.

DC1

Translation Pierre

Emil

MAR 7 - 1929

Shanghai, le 26 Février 1929

2ème. Division

L'inspecteur BARDY

à monsieur le Chef de la Sûreté,

COPIE

J'ai l'honneur de vous rendre compte que dans la nuit du 23 au 24 Février, vers 2 heures du matin, un incendie a éclaté au N° 2 Passage 146 A. Route des Soeurs. Les pompiers alertés à 2 h.24, se sont rapidement rendus sur les lieux et ont constaté que des flammes jaillissaient de plusieurs fenêtres des pièces situées au deuxième étage de la maison et sises à l'angle Ouest. Après avoir pris les dispositions d'usage, les pompiers ont appliqué une échelle et ont pu avoir accès au lieu incendié, un enfant y ayant été signalé. Mr. ROYERE a mis un mouchoir sur sa bouche et sans hésitation y a pénétré. Il a réussi à s'approcher du lit qui brûlait et, à tâtons, a pu se rendre compte qu'un cadavre y gisait. Précautionneusement il l'a pris dans ses bras et au milieu des flammes a pu le transporter sur une véranda attenante. Par la suite et l'enquête, il fut établi que la personne qui avait été retirée de la chambre incendiée était Mme CLAUSING, femme d'un Officier Américain, du Corps d'Occupation de Shanghai et résidant actuellement à l'adresse précitée.

Après 2 heures d'efforts, les pompiers, dirigés par Mr. le Commandant CHAPEAUX, purent maîtriser le sinistre.

Les dégâts sont assez élevés et ne sont couverts par aucune assurance. La maison incendiée est une pension de famille tenue par Mr. POLIAK.

.....

Les causes de l'incendie n'ont pu être entièrement définies et paraissent être accidentelles. L'enquête n'a pas permis de relever quoi que ce soit de précis.

Le corps de Mme CLAUSING a été transporté à la morgue de l'Infirmerie Municipale où Mr. le Docteur VELLIOT a fait les constatations médico-légales. Il a délivré un permis d'inhumer qu'il a remis lui-même à Mr. le Lieutenant Américain Evans Fordey Carlson, qui, avec nous assistait aux constatations.

Dans la soirée, le corps a été transféré à la morgue de Fearon Road, au Quartier International.

Les causes du sinistre n'ont pu être définies au cours des premières investigations. La Police Française, qui n'était saisie d'aucune plainte, n'avait pas qualité pour interroger l'auteur responsable de l'accident. Ce dernier étant Officier Américain, l'instruction a été ouverte par un Juge siégeant à la Cour Américaine./.

Signé : BARDY.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

(Confidential)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE	
C. I. D. REGISTRY	
No. 100 D. 75	Station
Gordon Road	Date
March 3rd 1928	

Subject (in full) Report on enquiries Re No. 134 Sinza Road in connection with the report in the North China Daily News Re the death of Mrs. Clausen.

Made by D.S. McFarlane.

Forwarded by

3/ Insp. *Chenard*

Sir,

With reference to the above I beg to state that enquiries were made at 134 Sinza Road and it was ascertained that the house at that address is known as "Sinza Lodge" and is kept by a Chinese named Wong as a first-class foreign boarding house. The person named Leland is a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and has been residing there with his wife since April 1st. 1928.

There are also two other American officers reside at this address and according to the No. 1 "Boy" these men drink rather heavily during holidays, week-ends etc.,

I am

Sir,

Yours obediently

J. M. Farlane
D.S. 113.

Det. Supt. "B" Division, C.I.D.

W.H.K.

4/15/28

Information

4/3/28

C.I. Information re address mentioned in French gun fire case.
4/3/28 *Rey*

Rum



Verdict Returned By Jury In Frenchtown Fire Tragedy

A verdict in the case of the mysterious death of Mrs. J. G. Clausing, wife of an American Marine officer, yesterday was returned by a Coroner's jury before Commissioner A. Kriest in the American Court. Death was caused, the jury found, by causes unknown. Thus ends an inquest which for the past week has held the centre of the news stage of Shanghai. Mrs. Clausing was found dead following a fire at 146A Route des Sœurs, a little more than a week ago.

The first red tongue of flame from that fire, shooting up into a night sky and noted by passers-by, marked the beginning of a double tragedy which has stirred the foreign community. Within the burning house Mrs. Clausing was found dead—under circumstances that breathed of mystery. Lieut. Clausing, her husband, was painfully burned. He died a few days later in the Marine Hospital as the result of infection from his burns.

The verdict and findings of the jury read as follows:

"We, the jury, find that the body examined by us at the International Funeral Directors' Parlours at 71 Kiachow Road at 4.30

p.m. on February 23, to be that of Routh Lois Clausing, a citizen of the United States of America, and that she came to her death in her apartment at 146A Route des Sœurs between the hours of 11.15 p.m. of February 23, 1929 and 2.50 a.m. of February 24, 1929, through causes unknown. During this time a fire of unknown origin occurred in her apartment from the debris of which her charred remains were later removed."

The coroner then thanked the members of the jury as follows: "Gentlemen of the jury, the coroner fully appreciates the services that you gentlemen have been called upon to make. On being summoned as a jury you promptly laid aside your various businesses and responded to the duty of a jury in investigating the circumstances of this inquest.

"You have very intelligently and thoroughly inquired into this matter. You have given a great deal of your time and attention to it and I am fully convinced that in reaching the verdict you have, that you have done so after a mature deliberation. Your verdict is approved and we desire to thank you very much indeed."

a. C (Pal)

AR 6 ³/₄

VICES: SEE PAGE 13



士 隔 泰

PRICE TEN CENTS

Lieut. John G. Clausing Passes Away Suddenly At Marine Corps Hospital

**HUSBAND OF VICTIM OF ROUTE DES SOEURS
FIRE DIES FROM SCEPTIC POISONING
FOLLOWING HIS BURNS**

WAS TO HAVE TESTIFIED AT INQUEST

**Proceedings At U. S. Court Adjourned Until Next
Tuesday; Witnesses Tell Of Party Held In
Sinza Road Before Clausings Left**

Lieutenant John G. Clausing, of the 4th Regiment, United States Marine Corps, will not be called upon to testify at the inquest at the U. S. Court on the charred body believed to be that of his wife, Mrs. Ruth Clausing, which was recovered from the scene of the fire at 143A Route des Soeurs last Sunday morning. Lieutenant Clausing died suddenly at the Marine Corps hospital yesterday evening, septicaemia, following burns received in the fire, being given as the cause of death. He passed away at 5.15 p.m.

Although suffering from burns received in the fire, Lieutenant Clausing, up until noon yesterday, appeared to be recovering. At noon, however, he collapsed in bed due to a fainting spell. Restoratives were given him and he was revived. Two hours later, he collapsed again and was again revived, but at 5 p.m., he fell into a faint from which he never recovered. Fifteen minutes later, Lieutenant Clausing was dead.

Lieutenant Clausing, it was stated yesterday, was more ill than ever first thought. Although the exact cause of his death could not be determined, it was believed that he was suffering from septicaemia.

ANKIE
NEVA

are
to Re-
gue

Feb. 2
by

*A. D. B. I.
Information
a. c. (Pol)
A.R. 2 3/29*

KCM

of
read
the
hol,
the
League
Renter

HER

(1)

Dis-
28

28.
Army
extra
Mr.
itary
the
con-
not
The
re-

and it might be possible in the
procedure to reduce them still further
on the same basis as the improvement
He added that discipline among
the troops in China had been ad-
mirable and that there had been a
remarkable absence of any regret-
table incidents. The British troops
had also got on well with the
troops of other nations.
The estimate was agreed to
practically without a discussion, by
143 votes to 90.—Renter.

General Stimson For America

this son, Hip-ling on Mr. urs-est hat he by A. ret-en is ret-of son his tel. John pri-ae-

Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Cananingham, Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Wang, and others.

As on Thursday, Mr. Stimson yesterday declined to confirm or deny the reliable report of his appointment to the next Cabinet. To a representative of THE SHANGHAI TIMES yesterday the Governor-General stated that he was leaving the East with many regrets; that he has spent a number of years in the Far East and has a large number of friends here.

Mr. Stimson landed his predecessor, the late Governor-General Leonard Wood, declaring that General Wood loved and understood the peoples of the Islands, and that he had worked untiringly to bring to them peace and contentment. His death, he stated, was a severe blow and a great shock to his millions of Filipino friends.

The body has been removed to the International Funeral Home and a military inquest will be held this afternoon. At the invitation of Colonel Lyman, of the U. S. Marine Corps, Dr. W. K. Nance will sit at the investigation.

The final stages of the inquest at the U. S. Court were reached yesterday, and the proceedings were adjourned for the appearance of Lieut. Clausen, the adjourned date being set for next Tuesday. The news of Lieut. Clausen's death, however, had not reached the inquest authorities when this action was taken.

Capt. J. E. Snow, of the U. S. Marine Corps, was the first to take the witness stand. He had on'y been in Shanghai 45 days he said, and was residing at 124 Sinza Road, in the same house as Lt. Leland. He recalled having some guests early on Saturday evening including Lt. and Mrs. Clausen.

During the evening, Lt. Clausen told Mrs. Clausen to go home remarking "You are tight." She replied that she was not ready. There were no quarrels between the Clausens at his place. She had been drinking beer and he believed some vodka and dum but could walk with assistance.

Lt. Clausen intoxicated

Further evidence regarding the condition Mrs. Clausen was in that evening was furnished by Chief Marine Gunner R. C. Hardy, of the U. S. Marine Corps, who also resides at 124 Sinza Road. Last Saturday afternoon, Mrs. Hardy and he entertained some guests including the Clausens. Some time after the guests had departed he met the Clausens and several other members of the party in Captain Snow's room. Witness lingered there for a while and returned to his own room where he was later joined by Lt. Clausen who appeared to be very intoxicated. Witness gave him some coffee. Lt. Clausen remarked that he had not a car and would return home. Witness then accompanied him to Capt. Snow's room to fetch Mr. Clausen. While they were there he did not hear any argument between Lt. and Mrs. Clausen. Mrs. Clausen was very drunk and practically had to be carried down to the waiting car. He would classify Lt. Clausen's state as the next one to very drunk. There were no embittered feelings between the Lieutenant and his wife but the former appeared to be somewhat disgusted at Mrs. Clausen's condition.

Sergeant J. Kay, of the French police, next proposed that he was on duty at the French central police station early on Sunday morning. At 2.35 a.m. he was informed by police constable Telemont that through the telephone that a fire had broken out at house one and two in a passageway at 164A Route des Godards. He also received

270.

THE LOCAL FIRE
TRAGEDY

Request for Witnesses to
Come Forward

Mr. Kriegl, United States
Commissioner and Coroner,
in connection with the sad
fatality in Route des Sœurs,
would, we are asked to
state, appreciate it if any
person who witnessed the
fire in question and believes
he or she has any informa-
tion of value, would com-
municate with him or Dr.
Sellett, the District At-
torney.

a. c. (Pol)

A.R. 1³/₂₉

Lee

A.P.S.-2
Information.

JK

2:3:29

INCIDENTS OF FATAL BLAZE ARE REVIEWED BY WITNESSES

New Disclosures Made
Regarding Death Of
Mrs. Clausing

ENQUIRY ENDING

Testimony Of Husband,
Now In Hospital,
Not Yet Given

Before Coroner A. Krisel and a Jury in the U. S. Court for China, the public enquiry into the death of Mrs. J. C. Clausing, wife of First Lieutenant Clausing of the U. S. Marine Corps, was resumed yesterday, and, after lasting all day, was again adjourned until this morning.

The Jury consists of Messrs. C. H. Raven, George Fitch, E. C. Stoeker, Gardner Crane, A. R. Hager, and J. S. Potter. Dr. G. Sellett, U. S. District Attorney, conducted the proceedings.

An interested spectator of the proceedings was Col. G. H. Lyman, commanding the 6th Regiment of the U. S. Marines, who occupied a seat on the Bench, and was frequently in close conversation with Coroner Krisel.

COOK TESTIFIES

The cook of 166A Route des Securs testified that on the night preceding the fire, Lieut. Clausing's boy came to the kitchen at 9.30 to prepare some sandwiches, and sent the witness to bed. At about 3 o'clock the next morning the cook called him up and told him there was a fire in the American's rooms. "I immediately went out to the garden and saw flames, and the fire brigade came at once. I stayed at the front door of the No. 1 house: I saw no body brought out, and I have no knowledge as to how the fire started. I saw no person with burns."

The No. 1 cook, above referred

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1.)

to al-
duty
occupied
his wife
-Last
10 o'clock
The boy
the lad
The m-

out of the right window, both of the windows were open. He was wearing pyjamas such as you may see every day of your life. When I left he was standing outside the verandah rail with his back to them. I am sure he was not wearing trousers. The fire could not have been caused by a curtain suddenly blazing. I saw the body taken out of the room and put on the verandah: it was in a blanket. I was in trying to get the body to W. I. it was not dropped at any time.

The woman: Yes, that is a very good example. Thank you.

bedroom window we can look down
on to the Rue de la Harpe and
the square the back into the two

I did not see anyone being carried out of the building. I saw the firemen attempting to get down the ladder with a man who they had brought out of the room they failed to do so and they laid it down on the verandah. I did not see any man standing near the entrance gate in a shirt and pair of trousers. I have never spoken to anyone who did see a man on the verandah as Miss McCandless testified. It was not the sound of whistles that woke my wife up, it was the arrival of the fire brigade."

Over 100,000 copies of the book have been sold.

"We then went to Capt. Snow's quarters, which are in the same house, and Mr. and Mrs. Canning were also there, making a party of five. That was at about 7 o'clock, and I left at 8.30, and the Cannings about fifteen minutes after we did. Not more than two quart bottles of beer was drunk, of which both Mr. and Mrs. Canning had a portion.

Dr. Gellert: Have you any reason to believe that Mrs. Channing helped herself to liquor at that time?—
I didn't see her do it.

Dr. Seidel: There is evidence that shortly after 10 o'clock, at the time they arrived home, the Chapman was so drunk as to be unable to get out of the motor without assistance, and she required assistance to go up to her own room, and was so intoxicated that she was unable to get out of the room without assistance.

Would it surprise you to learn that Lieut. Clausen takes no more drink than you saw him take, that he very intoxicated at 12 o'clock?

This witness purchased his money by asserting that he was confident that the body which had been seen was that of Mrs. O'Connell, because he identified the two gold molar teeth which readily came in his mouth.

REQUEST FOR WITNESSES
Mr. Kriegl, the County, who
appreciate it if any person
witnessed the fire, and help
think he, or she, has any infor-
mation of value, would communi-
cate with him, or Dr. Seltzer, the U-
S. Attorney, at the U-
S. Court, 11 Wisconsin

The proceedings then terminated this morning at 10 o'clock.

Five men of which two armed, entered a house on H. Long Road late yesterday evening and stole a considerable amount of money and property. There are arrests reported.

Burning and Itching Continued. Cuticura Heals

"I was troubled with small
pox that broke out on my chest
and spread over my arms and
back. The irritation got worse and
the smallpox was very severe. I
was in bed for several weeks and
my face was about the size of
a peach."

"I read an advertisement for the Soap and Ointment in various papers. After using I got relief so purchased a box of Ointment and one cake of Soap. I was healed." (Signed) Thompson, A. Henry St., New York, N. Y. 11-22-02.

THE CHALLENGE OF RACE while we
are not yet free, we are not yet free, and
we are not yet free, and we are not yet free.

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

[illegible]

LINTON
 AMERICAN
 FRANKLIN, ALFRED, LINTON
 WHITE'S HALL & BARR
 Machinery Products Co. Ltd.
 H. G. Vickers, Ltd.
 100-101 Ave. 101

SUNDAY MORNING FIRE TRAGEDY

Sensational Testimony Given at U. S. Commissioner's Inquiry: Medical Evidence Concerning Alleged Injury to Mrs. Clausing's Skull

STRANGE STORY BY FELLOW LODGER

Question of Unconsciousness During Blaze Dealt with by Medical Men Under Examination

Marked by new and sensational testimony offered by witnesses, plus conflicting evidence introduced by several spectators of the dramatic happenings and a surgeon's deposition of findings that visibly stirred an already tensed courtroom, the inquest on the body of Mrs. John G. Clausing who was burned beyond recognition in a fire at her home on Sunday morning was resumed at the American Court for China yesterday before Commissioner Alexander Krisel sitting as coroner and a jury composed of Messrs. Charles Raven, Gardner Crane, E. C. Stocker, John S. Potter, George Fitch and A. R. Hager. U. S. Attorney George Sellett conducted the case for the United States.

The first witness called at the morning session was M. M. Chapeaux, Commander of the Volunteer Fire Brigade of the French Concession who stated that a telephone message was received at the brigade headquarters at about 2.24 a.m. on the morning of the 24th inst. that a house at 146A Route des Soeurs was on fire. Witness proceeded immediately with the first units under his command and found flames pouring from a third floor

window. The unit immediately went to work and in about 15 to 20 minutes had the conflagration under such control that ladders were placed against the windows in the front of the house and Mr. Royere, Chief of the Fire Brigade ascended and entered the room. Special haste was made to get into the blazing structure as a youthful Russian had told him that a child had been left there by its parents.

The Body Discovered

On entering the room Mr. Royere found a body from which the legs were missing. He removed it to the verandah and soon after it was sent away in an ambulance to the French Mortuary. The witness could give little opinion on the origin of the fire as it was so intense as to obliterate all evidence.

Mr. Royere then took the stand and corroborated the evidence of his predecessor. He stated that on entering the room he could not see because of the smoke, but groped around and struck against the bed on which by feeling as best he could he came upon the body which he immediately picked up and took outside. He noticed the legs were missing and went back for them. One was on the bed and the other lying some several feet away. Whether the body struck anything while he was removing it he could not answer, but it was possible that it had, as the passageway was extremely narrow, and the space which he traversed was very dark. The room was badly gutted and he did not feel capable of giving any opinion as to the fire's origin because there was little left on which to base an opinion. He expressed the belief that it could have been caused by a lighted match, cigarette, or any similar lighted object.

Charred Almost Beyond Recognition

Dr. K. W. Nance was next called and told of having examined the body on Monday at the mortuary and having found it so badly charred as to be almost beyond recognition. The only part untouched by the flames was the back and he believed this to be because the body was on its back during the fire. The hands were detached and the legs were severed about the knees. He stated it was the body of a woman but he could not say more.

a. c. (Pal)

This seems a case of murder.

H. Relish
D.I.

A.D.B.I.

Information

Feb 25 1932

Res

Later in the day he returned for a closer examination and found that part of the skull was missing, the frontal region was gone, and it was evident to him that this was due to having been burned away, confirming his belief because he noticed the edges were broken away and exposed fresh bone in one or two places. There was a fracture line running along the left temple and over the eyeball and another fracture was found on the right side of the face.

On Tuesday in company with Dr. Manion U. S. N., attached to the 4th Regt. Marines, he again examined the body and held still another investigation on Wednesday. On the latter day he wanted to bring part of the skull to Court to introduce as evidence but found that by the slightest handling it crumbled to pieces and he could not achieve his object.

No Explosion of Skull

The brain was completely exposed and when questioned as to the possibility of the moisture inside the skull becoming heated and causing an explosion that would cause the fracture, he scouted the theory. He stated that the fracture over the left eye could quite conceivably have occurred before the fire and it was his opinion that such a fracture could have been caused most likely by a heavy blunt instrument. He was not in agreement with a suggestion of the jury that the fracture could have been caused by the fire or by the striking of the head against some hard object during its removal from the room.

As a means of identification he noted especially two gold-capped teeth and he knew the body was that of a woman but beyond that there was no way of identifying the remains.

Also he expressed as an impossibility the belief that anyone no matter in what degree of intoxication could have remained on a bed with a fire raging in the vicinity and said that the mere entry of smoke into the lungs which would result in suffocation, would undoubtedly have caused the regaining of consciousness. He said the first evidence of suffocation was a violent coughing and this would tend to bring the person to the full power of his or her senses. He did not believe that anyone could have force of character or determination enough to remain willingly on a bed and be burned to death and he thought impossible the suggestion of suicide.

Dr. Manion was the next witness called and stated that he had active-

(Continued on Page 16.)